



A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 41<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
(Including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades, Port Hueneme, South Oxnard, Santa Monica, Tarzana, Topanga, Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills.)

## SEPTEMBER 2003 ISSUE

### Possible Ahmanson Ranch Purchase Moves Ahead

Additional hearings before state agencies that would be involved in the funding of any purchase of Ahmanson Ranch have been set. Agreement has been reached between the state and Washington Mutual on a purchase price, but other terms of the deal are still being negotiated. Although I remain optimistic, until a final agreement is signed by all parties, nothing is certain.

- On **Monday evening, September 22**, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy held its regular monthly meeting in Franklin Canyon Park, Beverly Hills. The Board of Directors authorized disbursement of voter-approved Proposition 50 grant funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority toward the purchase.
- On **Thursday evening, September 25**, the California Coastal Conservancy will meet at the Harbor Administration Building in the Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, and consider disbursement of Proposition 50 grant funds, which would also be applied toward a purchase.
- On **Tuesday morning, September 30**, the Wildlife Conservation Board will meet in the State Capitol to consider the allocation of a grant of Prop. 50 dollars to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as the final funding piece of this acquisition.



Proposition 50 funds are not general funds. They are restricted and can be used only for acquisitions of major wetland and watershed properties such as Ahmanson Ranch. They cannot be used for any other purpose, including toward the state's budget shortfall.

I attended the September 22 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy meeting, and plan to attend the September 25 Coastal Conservancy meeting. I continue to be hopeful that each of these approvals moves us ever closer to a signed agreement with Ahmanson. I look forward to the protection of Ahmanson Ranch as permanent open space, and to the enormous recreational opportunities that it will create for the public, such as hiking, horseback riding, environmental education, picnicking, photography, bird watching, wildlife spotting, star gazing, and the list goes on and on.

## 2003 Legislative Session Ends

The 2003 legislative session ended at about 3:45 a.m. on Saturday, September 13. Here's a summary of some of my bills and others that were noteworthy this year.

**AB 28 (Jackson/Pavley) - Beverage Container Recycling:** This bill proposes numerous changes to the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act including increasing the California Redemption Value and refund value, increasing the quality glass incentive payment, paying recyclers a one-time supplemental payment, requiring commingled rates for plastic and glass, creating a grant program for market development of recycled containers, establishing a rebate for manufacturers, authorizing the transfer of up to \$10 million to the newly created Recycling Infrastructure Loan Guarantee Account. **On the Governor's desk.**

**AB 740 (Pavley) – Clean Air, Water and Coastal Protection Bond:** This bill, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy, would place a bond on the March 2004 ballot to provide bond funding for air and water quality programs. **Two year bill. Currently on Assembly Appropriations Suspense file.**

**AB 866 (Pavley) – Integrated Waste Management Program:** Among other things, designates \$20 million to go to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission for important water quality and cleanup projects. **On the Governor's desk.**

**AB 878 (Pavley) – Harbor Districts:** Sponsored by the Oxnard Harbor District, this bill increases the borrowing power of the Port of Hueneme from private sources from \$1 million to \$10 million, allows that money to be repaid over ten years instead of five, and gives greater leeway to invest funds in state or federal programs. **Signed into law by the Governor.**

**AB 1212 (Pavley) – Coastal Sand Replenishment:** Thanks to the Pacific Palisades Residents Association, this bill will require project applicants that are doing beach replenishment work, to supervise implementation of the plan and provide a copy to the lead agency/Coastal Commission. The bill was prompted by three reported incidents in which debris-filled sand was deposited onto beaches, causing public health hazards. **Signed into law by the Governor.**

**AB 1548 (Pavley) – Environmental Education:** Sponsored by Heal the Bay, this bill will require the state to establish environmental education curriculum for K-12 students. **On the Governor's desk.**

**AB 1610 (Pavley) – Identity Theft:** Will require credit lenders to take reasonable steps to verify that information on credit applications, such as name and social security number, matches what is in the consumer's credit report. About 9.9 million individuals were victimized in 2002 and more than 27 million have been hit by identity theft in the last five years...costing banks, businesses and consumers upward of \$50 billion annually. **Signed into law by the Governor.**

**AB 1683 (Pavley) – Child Care Facilities:** Requires any licensed child care facility that receives a citation that poses an immediate threat to the health, safety and/or personal rights of children, to post a copy of that report for 30 days in a conspicuous place at the facility. Current law and regulations rarely require the Department of Social Services to notify parents when it determines that children at a child daycare facility have been mistreated or placed in harm's way, and the Department is only directed to inform parents of its most extreme regulatory actions. Oftentimes, the Department discovers serious health and safety violations at a facility, cites the facility for those violations, and requests corrective actions without the parents of the children in the facility's care ever being informed of the problems. **Signed into law by the Governor.**

**AB 1697 (Pavley) – Children in Vehicles:** Requires children to be secured in the rear seat of a vehicle until they are at least six years of age or 60 lbs. Exceptions include vehicles with no back seats, if the back seat is already occupied by children under age six, or if it is medically necessary for a child to ride in front. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for American children. Children are at much greater risk of severe injury or death when they're involved in a crash while riding in the front seat. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety sitting in a rear seat instead of the front seat reduces fatal injury risk by 36 percent among children. Most crashes are frontal and the back seat is farthest from the point of impact. **On the Governor's desk.**

**SB 504 (Kuehl) – Exposition Metro Line:** I am a co-author of this Senate bill which creates a single-purpose Construction Authority to begin final design and construction of a light rail line that will connect downtown Santa Monica with the L.A. light rail system. It does not take effect until the Los Angeles MTA secures the needed federal and local dollars. **On the Governor's desk.**

**SB 314 (Murray) –** This bill will allow voters to consider a ½ cent sales tax increase for several L.A. County transit projects, including the Santa Monica-to-L.A. light rail; and the north/south busways for the San Fernando Valley. This measure would require a 2/3 voter approval. **On the Governor's desk.**





## **Preschool Storytime in Pt. Hueneme October 15**

Bring your preschooler to the Ray D. Prueter Library, 510 Park Avenue, Pt. Hueneme on Wednesday morning, October 15 at 10:30 a.m. for "Clang Clang, the Firetruck is on it's Way." Enjoy storytime, talk with a Pt. Hueneme fireman, and get a close look at the fire truck. Free Fire Safety coloring books will also be distributed, provided by my office. For more information, call the library at (805) 486-5460.

## **September 27 "Acorn Festival" in Malibu Canyon**

If you're looking for an enjoyable way to celebrate the beauty of Malibu Canyon, consider spending Saturday, September 27 at Malibu Creek State Park. Admission is free. Parking \$2. There will be live music; Native American dancers; children's activities; arts, crafts, and games; live wild animals from The Nature of Wildworks; and vendor and food booths. Malibu Creek State Park is located three miles south of the 101 freeway and six miles north of PCH, on Malibu Canyon/Las Virgenes Road. For more information, call Kay at (818) 889-6238.

## **It's Brush Fire Season**

Fall is typically the time of year that southland residents face the real possibility of brush fires in our dry hills. Many residents of the 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District live in or near mountainous or brushy areas. I have prepared an informative brochure called "Protecting your Home from Brush Fires." My district office will be happy to mail you a copy on request. Just call my office at (818) 596-4141, (310) 395-3414, or (805) 644-4141.

## **"On The Edge" Program Held in Oak Park**

On Saturday morning, September 20, my family and I were delighted to attend "On the Edge," a wonderful program in Oak Park presented by a collaboration of a number of wildlife agencies and groups that have joined together to help people and the wild animals around us live safely and happily in our shared environment.

Roughly 100 children and parents were treated to a very educational program that included the bobcat kitten pictured on the left. Holding the bobcat is Molly Hogan from The Nature of Wildworks, and on my left is Garrie Mar with the Mountains Restoration Trust. Both groups are part of the collaborative. The program also included a coyote pup, gopher snake, skunk, two opossums, a red-tailed hawk, and a barn owl. It was wonderfully informative, and a very enjoyable way to start the weekend.



## **North Oxnard Gets New Health Facility**

Congratulations to Dr. Pierre Durand, his staff at the Ventura County Health Care Agency, and the Ventura Board of Supervisors on the grand opening of their beautiful new outpatient medical facility in North Oxnard. My staff attended the celebration. Tours were provided of the Health Services building where compassionate and cost-effective care will be provided to the under-served residents of Ventura County.

## Save the Date:

**Thursday evening, Oct. 30** – I will be co-hosting a meeting with the Office of Privacy on Identity Theft and how you can protect yourself and your personal information from this growing problem. It will be held at the Encino/Tarzana Hospital. Details will follow in my October newsletter, or call Jenny Toder at my office.

## Refresher Classes Offered for Senior Drivers

If you're a senior driver or have one in your family, there are refresher classes available by the Automobile Club of Southern California and the AARP that can both sharpen driving skills and even result in a discount on car insurance. Following the tragic accident earlier this summer in Santa Monica that involved an elderly driver, organizers of such refresher courses say that they have seen a surge of interest in their classes. Just simple tips like advising the hearing-impaired to keep the radio and a/c fan turned down to help compensate, and to know how medications may affect your driving can make a real difference in driver safety. Classes are generally low cost, and people who participate in them are often surprised at what they learn, including about their own abilities and limitations.

For information on the AARP's Driver Safety Program, call (888) 227-7669 or visit their website at [www.aarp.org/drive](http://www.aarp.org/drive).

For information on the Automobile Club's classes, call (800) 222-8794 or visit their website at [www.aaa-calif.com/insurance/auto/safe.asp](http://www.aaa-calif.com/insurance/auto/safe.asp).

## Wonder How Lottery Funds Impact our Schools?

I received an inquiry from a constituent recently, asking why California's schools are still having financial problems since the 1984 California State Lottery Act was passed by the voters specifically to provide supplemental funding to public education. Although the Lottery reports that it has provided over \$14 billion to our schools over the past 18 years -- all the way from kindergarten through higher education -- you may be surprised to know that according to their website, lottery money represents only about 2% of total revenue going to the schools. It was never intended to be significant revenue source for funding our schools. Money is disbursed on a per-pupil basis based on average daily attendance of students in each school district.

Here's how it's allocated to the various segments of our public schools.

- Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade 80.80%
- Community colleges 12.90%
- California State University System 3.85%
- University of California .21%

Lottery money can only be used for instructional purposes, and cannot be used to purchase property or to construct new facilities. Some school districts are using lottery money for computer labs, teacher workshops, science programs, and art and music programs. To learn more about the California Lottery, go to [www.calottery.com](http://www.calottery.com).

## Gas Company Offers Businesses Equipment Rebates

The Gas Company's statewide "Express Efficiency Cash Rebate Program is back. For a limited time only, small and medium-sized businesses can receive rebates for the replacement and upgrade of existing gas-fired equipment with qualifying new high-efficiency gas-fired technology alternatives. Qualifying business equipment includes horizontal axis clothes washers, storage and instantaneous water heaters, space heating boilers, boilers, certain food service equipment, pipe and tank insulation, and greenhouse heat curtains.

Check with The Gas Company before you purchase new equipment to see how you can improve the energy efficiency of your business and possibly qualify for a rebate. For more information, either visit online at [www.socalgas.com](http://www.socalgas.com), or call 1 (800) GAS-2000.

## Walk to School Day

Wednesday, October 8 is "Walk to School Day," the highlight of International Walk to School Week, which is October 6-10, 2003. Walking to school is an easy way to start a child's day with exercise. The goal is to help teach children safe walking behavior including crossing streets, and you can help select the safest route to school. Consider walking to school with your child on October 8. And for more information on safe walking, visit [www.cawalktoschool.com](http://www.cawalktoschool.com).

## Holocaust Survivor Unpaid Life Insurance Policies

Suppose your family had a Holocaust-era insurance policy and you just didn't know about it? If you are a Holocaust survivor, or the heir of a survivor, you may have a legitimate unpaid Holocaust-era life, education, or dowry insurance claim. And you may now have the opportunity to receive payment even if you do not have complete documentation of your claim.

Claims can be filed with the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC). There is no charge for filing. But the **deadline for filing is September 30.**

ICHEIC has published some lists of Holocaust-era policyholders on its website at [www.icheic.org](http://www.icheic.org). However, don't be discouraged if you don't find your name on these lists, since they are very incomplete and you may still have a valid claim. For more information, you can also contact Leslie Tick at [tickl@insurance.ca.gov](mailto:tickl@insurance.ca.gov) or [guntherr@insurance.ca.gov](mailto:guntherr@insurance.ca.gov).

## Recycle Business Equipment/Supplies

L.A. SHARES is a free service being funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board in conjunction with the City of L.A. Department of Public Works. They will arrange for a free pickup of any of your unwanted office furniture, supplies or equipment. Your donation is tax deductible, and what you no longer need will be distributed to over 2,500 local nonprofit agencies and schools.

You can either call L.A. SHARES at (213) 485-1097, or visit their website at [www.lashares.org](http://www.lashares.org), for more information or to arrange a pickup. This is another excellent way to turn "trash to treasure."

## Economic Alliance to Hold Trade Conference

On Friday, October 24, the Economic Alliance is hosting its Sixth Annual Southern California International Trade Conference at the Hilton Universal City and Towers. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear from experts, find out what's going on in the world regarding trade, ask questions, talk with exhibitors, and find out directly from consulates about trade opportunities in their countries.

If you would like more information, or to register or sponsor, contact Selenia Scott at the Economic Alliance at (818) 379-7000, or go to [www.vitainternational.org](http://www.vitainternational.org) under Events.

## "My Vote Counts"

With today's ruling from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, California will be holding a special election on October 7. The California Secretary of State wants you to know about his "Let's Make Every Vote Count" outreach and education program. He wants to help insure that all eligible voters participate.

- If you want to vote by absentee ballot, you must apply to have a ballot sent to you by **September 30.**
- If you will be voting in person, save time in the polling booth by marking your Sample Ballot ahead of time and taking it with you to help vote quickly and confidently.
- Polling places may have been changed. Check the back of your Sample Ballot to confirm the address of your polling place.
- Voting systems may be different from the last time you voted. Make sure that you know which system your county uses. Simple step-by-step instructions on how to use each voting system are available online at [www.myvotecounts.org](http://www.myvotecounts.org). Both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties expect to use punch-card voting.
- The recall has two questions. You can vote on either of them, or both.
- Remember that the ballot also includes two statewide measures, Propositions 53 and 54.

As always, your vote is your voice. Please vote on October 7.

## **Assemblymember Pavley's Committee Assignments**

Appropriations Committee  
Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee  
Budget Committee  
Education Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Select Committee on Title IX  
Select Committee on California Ports  
Select Committee on Sustainability  
Chair, Select Committee on Air and Water Quality  
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources  
Legislative Advisory Committee – Wildlife Conservation Board  
Legislative Advisory Committee – California Coastal Conservancy  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board

### **HOW TO REACH ME:**

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#### **Capitol Office:**

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Or visit my website at [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)

If you know of anyone who you think would like to receive these newsletters, please e-mail their name, mailing address and e-mail address, and I'll be happy to add them to my list.

